

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 05217 052224Z

70

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 IO-14 RSC-01

COME-00 TRSE-00 SWF-02 SP-03 NSC-07 CIEP-03 SS-20

STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 H-03 L-03 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 DRC-01 /196 W

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P R 052153Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1715

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA CITY

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS PANAMA 5217

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, PN

SUBJ: BANANAS: GENERAL TORRIJOS ANNOUNCES SETTLEMENT WITH UB

1. COMMUNIQUE ISSUED SEPTEMBER 4 BY GENERAL TORRIJOS ANNOUNCED RESUMPTION AS OF THAT DATE OF CUTTING, PROCESSING, AND SHIPMENT OF BANANAS BY UB AND STATED COMPANY WILL BEGIN SHORTLY TO DISCUSS WITH GOP "FORM IN WHICH ITS PROPERTIES SHOULD PASS TO THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA AND THE CONDITIONS OF ITS PRESENCE IN THE COUNTRY". COMMUNIQUE GIVES RESULTS OF AGREEMENT AS FOLLOWS:

A. COMPANY WILL IMMEDIATELY PAY WORKERS WHO WERE SUSPENDED, THOSE WHOSE WAGES WERE REDUCED, AND THOSE INDIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE SUSPENSION OF EXPORTS.

B. COMPANY ALSO PLEDGES PAYMENT OF TAXES AND INDEMNITIES DUE THE NATIONAL TREASURY.

C. THE INTERESTS OF INDEPENDENT PRODUCERS AND

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PAGE 02 PANAMA 05217 052224Z

THEIR WORKERS WILL BE REVIEWED AND RESPECTED BY UB.

COMMUNIQUE STATES PANAMA WILL THUS ATTEND SEPTEMBER 17 UPEB MEETING WITH STRENGTHENED POSITION AND EXPRESSES GRATITUDE FOR SUPPORT EXTENDED BY ALL SECTORS TO THIS NATIONAL CAUSE. IT CLOSING WITH EXHORTATION TO NATIONAL DIGNITY COMMITTEE, LABOR UNIONS, STUDENTS, PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, PRIVATE CORPORATIONS AND ALL WHO SUPPORTED GOP'S DECISION WITH RESPECT TO UB THAT "THE STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL DIGNITY AND SOVEREIGNTY IS NOT OVER; THE FIRST RECRUITING HAS HARDLY BEGUN; LET US MAINTAIN THE ORGANIZATION HITHERTO ACHIEVED." NO OTHER DETAILS.

2. MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MANFREDO IS REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD GATHERING OF UB WORKERS AND UNION LEADERS IN PUERTO ARMUELLES ON AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 4 THAT UB'S IDEA HAD BEEN TO OVERCOME MOVEMENT FOR THE CREATION OF UPEB, BUT THAT PANAMA IS READY TO PUT AN END TO THE HEGEMONY OF THE TRANSNATIONAL COMPANIES. MANFREDO TOLD GROUP THAT PANAMA IS PREPARED TO PRODUCE, TRANSPORT AND MARKET BANANAS AND THAT PROFITS WILL BE USED TO IMPROVE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE WORKERS.

3. INITIAL PRESS REACTION TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE HAS EMPHASIZED CONTRIBUTION OF NATIONAL UNITY TO THE "VICTORY" WHICH WAS WON. EDITORIALY, "CRITICA" CHARACTERIZED UB AS AN "ARROGANT ENTERPRISE" WHICH CEASED OPERATIONS IN ATTITUDE OF CHALLENGE TO GOP AND PANAMANIAN PEOPLE AND WHICH HAD TO YIELD, AND THEN CALLED "BANANA WAR" JUST ONE CHAPTER IN EPIC FIGHT FOR PANAMA'S "TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY" WHICH WAS CURTAILED BY 1903 TREATY. WHILE ALSO CITING UNITED FRONT OF ALL SECTORS OF SOCIETY AS PRINCIPAL CONTRIBUTION TO SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF DISPUTE, SEMI-INDEPENDENT "LA ESTRELLA" ALSO GAVE EDITORIAL CREDIT TO "CONCILIATORY AND REASONABLE ATTITUDE" OF UB IN REACHING ACCORD.

4. UB REPRESENTATIVE INFORMS US THAT LOADING OF FIRST OF 3 SHIPS PRESENTLY AT PUERTO ARMUELLES WILL PROBABLY BE COMPLETED TODAY.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740246-1132
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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